

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, March 23. 1708

IN my Last I spoke to you in Parables— But it seems, my *Enigma* had so many Windows in it, that you all saw in to the Inside presently, and every One cries out, they know my Widow ; nay, they all call her by her Name at first Word, and who must it be but an Old North Country Gentlewoman, one Mrs. CALLEDONIA.

Well, and let it be so then— And the Moral may fairly be turn'd upon the Enquirers, who have teaz'd me so long upon the Subject— *How Scotland will behave Herself upon this Invasion ?* In Answer to which it will be needful to enter a little into the true State of Affairs there, as briefly as I can.

It is true, that during the Parliaments sitting in Scotland at the completing the Treaty of Union, there appear'd violent

Aversions in Abundance of People against the Coalition with *England*.

It would be endless to go about, in so short a Paper as this, to give you a Particular, either of the Persons opposing it, the Reasons why, or Manner how ; and yet a brief Scheme of those Particulars will be the best Way to answer the present Enquiry, and will naturally let you into the Reason of the Suggestions ; and therefore take it briefly, thus.

Four several Sorts of Persons make up the People of *Scotland*, and of them we must consider, such as have always own'd their Aversion to the Union.

1. *The Popish Party in Scotland*—Of these no Man could expect any other, than that they should be against the Union,
as

as it was an effectual barring the Door for ever against the Return either of the Civil Authority of a *Romish* Prince, or the Ecclesiastical Authority of the *Roman* Church—— And yet I must do that Justice to the Nobility and Gentry in *Scotland*, who are *Popish*, own and profess themselves so, that they are not always the most uneasy or unquiet People in *Scotland*, neither would they be the forwardest to disturb the publick Peace.

2. *The Jacobite Party in Scotland*— These are the profess'd Enemies of the Revolution, as it declares the Succession in the Protestant Line, and extinguishes the Hopes of Reinstating the Object of their Expectation, the Pretender, who they call *James VIII.* These are indeed open and declar'd Enemies to the Civil Government, long for a new Revolution of Affairs; and if the *French* can get Footing in *Scotland*, would immediately, if they durst, joyn them, and on all Occasions assist them, and we can expect no other from them; it is their Principle, and they may be honest Men in the main, for they pretend to no other.
3. *The Episcopal Party in Scotland*— These are against the Union, as it establishes, by an irrevocable Law, the *Presbyterian* Church Discipline, and builds the Kirk up with all its *Et-Ceteras* of Doctrine, Discipline, Worship and Government, upon the Ruin and Downfall of *Episcopal* Hierarchy—— Now tho' it is too true, generally speaking, that all these are at the same Time *Jacobites*, yet as the profess'd Aversion to the Union, which they openly make, is alleg'd to be on the Score of *Episcopacy*, and not *Jacobitism*; so unless these Men act against their true Interest, it cannot be possible, that they can joyn with *Popish* and *French* Power, since they ought rather to acquiesce in Protestant Liberty, however they are suppress'd, than *Popish* Tyranny, under which they, as well as their Neighbours, must inevitably perish.

4. *The Presbyterians in Scotland*— These are such as we call the governing Party, or the Kirk of *Scotland*—— These *Quat. Kirk*, or *Quat. Presbyterian*, have really made the Union, not declared against it; for the GOVERNMENT of *Scotland* has made the UNION, and the Government is, in its Religious Capacity, *Presbyterian*.

It is own'd now, that there are among the *Presbyterians*, Zealous, I had almost said Furious, Opposers of the Union, and indeed it was the Aversion of these only that made the Conclusion of it difficult, and the Opposition to it dangerous; for tho' the three Parties mention'd above are considerable and more numerous, than I wish they were, yet were the whole Body of the People of *Scotland*, who are truly and sincerely for the Revolution-Establishment, for the present Government, and the National Kirk, as sincerely and faithfully for the Union, I would answer for *Scotland*, with my Life, that *England* need not send a Ship or a Soldier, to resist all that *Jacobitism* and *French* Power could do in *Scotland*; perhaps Arms, Ammunition and Money might be wanted to put them into Posture, and into Condition to oppose the Invader, and that must be because the whole Nation have now but one Exchequer; but for Men, the whole opposite Interest durst not look them in the Face.

And this is the true Reason, why I have been talking so long in Allegories and Parables of *French* Instructions, *French* Spectacles, and the like; for these honest People want nothing but a little of the common Illuminations, which sharp Experiments generally help us to: They are indeed averse to the Union, and they have both their Religious and Politick Reasons for it, neither are they backward to let us know them; but when all this is allow'd, pardon me, Gentlemen, for telling you, these Men will never do the *French* King's Business, they may be ignorant, but they must be honest; they cannot be for a *French* Invasion, they cannot joyn with the Enemies of the Protestant Religion in general, to gratifie or promote their

their private Interest or their particular Share in that Religion.

I have heard talk of such a Thing, as a *Jacobite Presbyterian*, and in *England* we have had some of that Heterodox Kind of Monsters——— But give me leave to tell you, that in *Scotland*, whatever may be pretended, it cannot be true in Fact, and I'll give you a Demonstration of it.

The main Scruple, that all those People, who call themselves *Presbyterians*, have on their Minds against the Union, is, that it contravenes the Covenant. Now it is impossible, that he, who rejects a Union with a Protestant Nation, merely on Account of interfering with the National Obligation against *Episcopacy*, can unite with *Jacobitism*, which is Popery both constructive and consequential, since the National Covenant is much more express, and the Union much more direct against the one than against the other.

From this Clause I lay down three Things, the two last of which is a Consequence of the first, and both are natural Inferences from the Premises above.

1. It is impossible for a *Presbyterian* in *Scotland*, who acknowledges the Obligation of the National Covenant, to joyn with a *Popish* Successor, or unite with *France*, without a manifest direct Breach of the said National Covenant.
2. It is impossible, a *Presbyterian* in *Scotland*, who acknowledges the Obligation of the National Covenant, can joyn with the *French* Invasion, and the Pretender they carry with them, without being perjur'd in the plain genuine Sense, which they themselves give of the Obligation of the Covenant.
3. The same Reasons, which those *Presbyterians* in *Scotland* give for their opposing the Union, must in their own Explication of them oblige them much more strongly, against any Union with or joyning to a *Popish* Pretender.

I shall strengthen this a little in my next, and make some Additions to it, which may make it more plain.

MISCELLANEA.

I Have always desir'd to reserve a Nook in this Paper for Variety, and it is not for Want of Subject that I have entertain'd you so little that Way of late; but the publick Affairs have been too pressing to give Me Room, or You Leisure for other Matter.

But as you will see, by the following Letter, I have long been sollicit'd to take up a Cause, that no honest Man would be backward to espouse, *viz.* against the abominable Crime of Perjury, a Sin against both GOD and Man, that is a horrid Insult to the one, and Conspiracy against the other.

It is remarkable, that in a late Act about Bankrupts, and in That only, Perjury is punish'd with Death; and yet what Clamours and Noise have been rais'd against that Bill, I need not repeat, tho' not one Man is yet prosecuted on the Foot.

The Letter here inserted points this Crime out, and fixes it upon the Attorneys; I do not say the Observation is abstractedly true, but it is very well worth Note, how these are the very Men who most violently oppos'd the Bills for the Relief of the Miserable—What Connection it bears with the Character given them here, I shall discourse hereafter; in the mean Time I shall give you the Letter, and speak more to it at another Opportunity.

S I R,

I Some Time since sent you several Queries about the abominable Crime of Perjury; but observing that you have not hitherto taken the least Notice of em, I concluded, that you did not think it a Subject worth discoursing on, and therefore had resolv'd to forbear any farther Application about it: but understanding that there

there is a Bill now depending in the House of Commons for lessening the Number of Attorneys; (the wicked Instruments by which this Vice has so much prevail'd in this Part of Britain) I could not forbear once more to recommend these Queries to your Consideration. It is worth observing how the Regulating of those Wretches is provided for, by the same Bill, that's brought in for preventing Frauds in the Duties upon Stamp Paper; so that from thence we may infer, that our Representatives don't take 'em for Saints. It cannot but strike a Man that has any Sense of a Deity, with the utmost Horror, to hear an Attorney say to his Client, Sir, if your Cause depends upon Fact, and not upon Law, let me alone for that, i. e. I can furnish you with those that will swear for you; Instances of this Kind I could give you too many, but it is the Vice and not the Men that I am for having banish'd out of the World; and who knows, but that if it were recommended in a publick Manner to our Legislators, some Cluse may be inserted in the Bill I have just now mentioned, that may give a Cbeque to this wicked Practtice. If you don't think fit to give your self any Trouble upon this Subject, I shall think my self highly oblig'd to you, if you please to signifie so much by an Advertisement of a Line long, in one of your Reviews. I am,

At the Coffee-House in
Simmons-Inn, Chancery Lane.
March 8. 1707

Sir,

Your humble Servant.

T. P.

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Thomas Pritchard, at the Saracens-Head in Little Carter Lane, near St. Paul's, London, having a Son who had a very bad Rupture, and applying to Mr. Bartlett, at the Golden Ball in Prescot-street in Goodman's-Fields, London, He perform'd the Cure in four Days to my great Surprise, and my Son has remain'd well ever since.

This is to give Notice, that I Richard Baker, of Lawrence-Polneys Lane, Cannon-street, London, having had a Rupture for about fifty Years; at last I apply'd my self to the late Mr. Christopher Bartlett, at the Golden Ball by the Tavern in Prescot-street in Goodman's-Fields; who, by his ingenious Invention of Spring-Trusses and Rupture Spirits, with the Blessing of GOD, made a perfect Cure in about eight Months, and I have been perfectly well ever since, which is about four or five Years.

NOTE, His Son P. Bartlett lives at the same Place as above-mention'd, and carries on the same Business, as his Father did; having been by him thoroughly Educated therein.

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